

VZCZCXRO1039  
OO RUEHROV  
DE RUEHRH #0220 0331708  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 021708Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0033  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 000220

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS NEA/IPA FOR ANDREW LENTZ, NEA/ARP FOR JOSH HARRIS.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2019  
TAGS: [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE REQUEST: IMMEDIATE BUDGET SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

REF: SECSTATE 8722

Classified By: Political Counselor Lisa Carle  
Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

11. (U) This is an action request. See para 2.

12. (C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche to Saudi MFA Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs Dr. Prince Turki bin Muhammad bin Saud Al Kabeer. The Prince noted that FM Saud Al-Faisal was in Cairo for consultations with the Egyptian government on ways to strengthen the Palestinian Authority. Indicating he understood the need for urgent assistance to help the PA meet its operating expenses, Dr. Prince Turki asked for details on the specific mechanisms used by the USG to transfer funds to the PA. The Ambassador promised to convey this request and provide details as soon as possible. Please advise.

13. (C) The Ambassador asked for details on USD 1 billion pledged by King Abdallah for Gaza reconstruction. Prince Turki explained that the SAG was still studying the matter, and had yet to decide how to disburse the funds. Some of the money would likely go to international organizations such as UNRWA and ICRC, but they were also considering whether to channel funds to private companies who could undertake construction projects, for example. The SAG was determined that none of the money should fall into the hands of Hamas. Nor would they allow the money to go into "individual pockets," Turki added.

FRAKER